



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/604,336	07/11/2003	Ulf STEFANSSON	6730.054.PCUS00	1335
28694 7590 03/07/2007 NOVAK DRUCE & QUIGG, LLP 1300 EYE STREET NW SUITE 1000 WEST TOWER WASHINGTON, DC 20005			EXAMINER PATEL, VISHAL A	
			ART UNIT 3673	PAPER NUMBER
SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE		MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE	
3 MONTHS		03/07/2007	PAPER	

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/604,336

Applicant(s)

STEFANSSON, ULF

Examiner

Vishal Patel

Art Unit

3673

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 October 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claims 1-9 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 1-9 and 20 are directed to a sealing arrangement, how can a sealing arrangement having only comprise a sealing strip? For examination purpose the claims are directed to a sealing member or a seal.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1-9 and 20 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Horvath (US. 3,643,968).

Horvath disclose a sealing strip having a width along its length (length is circumferential or annular), width shown in figure 6 in cross-section, the sealing strip having a top surface (surface of 32) and a bottom surface (surface of 34 opposite of 32), at least one protrusion (protrusion 36) having a recess (35) that is a lead through from a top surface (top surface of 36)

Art Unit: 3673

and a bottom surface (bottom surface of 36) of the protrusion. The height of the protrusion is smaller than the height of the sealing strip (figure 6).

5. Claims 1-2, 4-11 and 13-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Hammi (US. 6,761,360).

Hammi discloses a component assembly comprising a first component part (152b) and a second component part (152a), and a sealing strip (10"), which is designed to be inserted into a groove (groove similar to 120) being present on the first component part, wherein the sealing strip exhibits a substantially constant width along the main portion of its length (width of 52a"), the sealing strip having at least one protrusion (protrusion having 46a" and 46b") that has a recess (recess between 46a" and 46b"), the protrusion having an inner surface that has a radius (radius of 46a"), the protrusion having an outer surface that has a radius (radius of 46b" and 60" which is large due to the surface being flat), the sealing strip having a lower delimitation surface (33"), the sealing strip having an upper delimitation surface (surface 52a"), the protrusion having an upper delimitation surface (top surface that contacts 152b) and a lower delimitation surface, the protrusion having a height that is smaller than a height of the sealing strip, the groove and the sealing strip are designed in an endless way and the sealing strip and the groove are designed with a longitudinal direction varying in three dimensions. The recess is designed as a lead through (this is the case since the groove is continuous and not ever blocked).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person

Art Unit: 3673

having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 10-19 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sumitomo (B1 of form 1449).

Sumitomo discloses a component assembly having a first part, a second part and a sealing strip, the sealing strip being placed in a groove of the first part, the sealing strip having a width, length and height, the sealing strip having a protrusion (22), the protrusion having a top surface and bottom surface (top and bottom surface of 22 that face 17 and 19), the protrusion being placed in a recess adjacent to the groove, the protrusion having a height (height of protrusion that is received in the recess) and the height being between the top and bottom surfaces. The protrusion having an inner surface (inner surface adjacent to 17a) having a curvature (curvature of surface of the protrusion facing 20) and an outer surface (surface facing toward 13).

Sumitomo discloses the invention substantially as claimed above but fails to disclose that the protrusion having a lead through the upper and lower surfaces. Nathan discloses a sealing strip having a width, length and height. The sealing strip having protrusions (15). The protrusions being solid and extending from a side of the sealing strip (figure 1). The sealing strip having protrusion (15a) being hollow (as shown in figure 3). The reason of being hollow is to provide self-energizing protrusions. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to configure the protrusion of Sumitomo to have lead through or make hollow as taught by Nathan, to provide solid protrusion or hollow protrusion is considered to be art equivalent and furthermore to having hollow protrusion make the protrusions self energizing (column 3, line 22).

Art Unit: 3673

***Response to Arguments***

8. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Applicants' arguments with respect to Hammi are not persuasive because Hammi discloses each and every limitations of the claims.

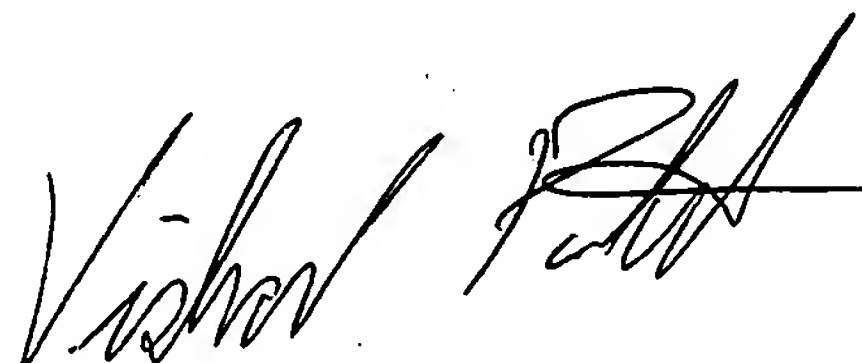
***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Vishal Patel whose telephone number is 571-272-7060. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:30am to 8:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Patricia L. Engle can be reached on 571-272-6660. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

VP  
March 4, 2007



Vishal Patel  
Patent Examiner  
Tech. Center 3600